UNITED
NATIONS

CRC

Convention on the
Rights of the Child

Distr.
GENERAL

CRC/C/SR.372
22 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Fifteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD (PARTIAL)* OF THE 372nd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 20 May 1997, at 10.30 a.m.

Temporary Chairperson: Mr. ZACKLIN (Officer-in-charge, High Commissioner/ Centre for Human Rights

Chairperson: Miss MASON

CONTENTS

OPENING OF THE SESSION

SOLEMN DECLARATION BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY STATES PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting (closed).

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

GE.97-16671 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.10 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. Mr. ZACKLIN (Officer-in-Charge, High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights), speaking as Temporary Chairperson, declared the session open. He extended his congratulations to Mr. Fulci, Ms. Mboi, Ms. Mokhuane and Mr. Rabah, the newly elected members of the Committee, as well as to Ms. Sardenberg, who had been re-elected at the sixth meeting of the States Parties in February. He assured all members of the Committee that the Secretariat was firmly determined to assist their work in every way possible.

2. Two Committee members, Mrs. Belembaogo, of Burkina Faso, and Mr. Hammarberg, of Sweden, had recently resigned. In accordance with article 43, paragraph 7 of the Convention, each of those two States parties had nominated an expert to serve out their terms.

3. He was pleased to report that Switzerland had recently ratified the Convention, bringing the total of States parties to 190; that event constituted a further step toward the goal of universal ratification. Furthermore, the Revised Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was reaching its operational phase. A support team would soon be in place to assist the Committee in the preparation and the follow-up of its examination of reports of States parties.

4. During its fifty-third session, the Commission on Human Rights had devoted particular attention to issues related to the rights of the child. In its resolution 1997/78 entitled "The rights of the child", the Commission had welcomed the constructive role of the Committee, called on States parties to cooperate closely with the Committee, encouraged the Committee to attend to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances, and welcomed the Committee's decision to devote its next general discussion to the rights of disabled children. The Commission had also reaffirmed that the human rights of women and girls were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and had invited the Committee to provide its comments on the reports of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as to participate in their upcoming sessions. The Commission had welcomed the Committee's efforts in the area of child labour and had encouraged it to continue to monitor that growing problem.

5. It had adopted other resolutions which were relevant to the situation of children, addressing, inter alia, the traffic in women and girls, as well as other contemporary forms of slavery, and the detention of children and juveniles. Finally, it had approved an extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, under the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

SOLEMN DECLARATION BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

6. The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON invited those members of the Committee who had been elected or re-elected at the sixth meeting of States Parties to make the solemn declaration provided for in rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure.

7. Mr. FULCI, Ms. MBOI, Ms. MOKHUANE, Mr. RABAH, and Ms. SARDENBERG made the following declaration: "I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE (item 3 of the provisional agenda)

8. The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON, referring to article 43, paragraph 9, of the Convention and to rules 16 and 17 of the provisional rules of procedure, called for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

9. Mr. KOLOSOV said that the members of the Committee had conducted informal consultations, and had agreed to nominate Miss Mason.

10. Mr. FULCI seconded the nomination.

11. Miss Mason was elected Chairperson by acclamation.

12. Miss Mason took the Chair.

13. The CHAIRPERSON called for nominations for the office of Rapporteur.

14. Mr. FULCI nominated Ms. Mboi.

15. Ms. Mboi was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

16. The CHAIRPERSON said that, in the absence of objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to defer the election of the three Vice-Chairpersons to a later meeting.

17. It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (item 1 of the provisional agenda) (CRC/C/63)

18. The agenda was adopted.

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY STATES PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION (agenda item 5)

19. Mrs. RAADI-AZARAKHCHI (Secretary of the Committee) said that seven initial reports of States parties had been received since the previous session, those of Vanuatu, Armenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, India, Mali, Georgia and the Netherlands. It also appeared that the additional report of Pakistan, due December 1996, would soon be forwarded to the Committee. A total of 107 reports had been submitted; of those, the Committee had thus far considered 68.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 12.35 p.m.